

Independent claim 4 has been amended to further set forth the key function provided by the shaped opening on the anchor section and the protrusions on the ends of the attachment ring in that it acts to limit, or stop, the anchor section at a position substantially perpendicular to the axis of the threaded shaft after passing through the mounting surface. Claim 7 has been amended to clearly set forth that this feature also enables the threaded openings on the attachment ring and the anchor section protrusion to be aligned, enabling the threaded shaft to be quickly and efficiently aligned with the threaded openings in the anchor section. Dependent claim 8 has been added to define the angular rotation limit of the attachment ring and dependent claims 9 and 10 set forth that a bushing, secured to the circumference of the threaded shaft, is positioned within the wall member opening. In this regard, it should be noted that the threaded member of Place, when the bolt is installed, is positioned within opening 34 in a manner such that room is not provided for any device to be mounted to the circumference of the threaded member within opening 34.

It is clear under the patent law that in order to reject claims as being anticipated by a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102, every element and limitation of the claimed invention must be found in a single prior art reference (see Brown v. 3M, 60 USPQ2d 1375, 1376 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

It is clear that the Place reference does not disclose or claim these particular stopper/alignment features and thus the place reference is inappropriate to be cited as the basis of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Although it is recognized that anchor or toggle belt systems have long been available in the prior art, the claimed invention provides a new, simple and efficient technique for mounting a board to a wall. The improved features, as noted hereinabove,


includes an attachment ring having protrusions extending into openings formed in the anchor section acting to provide a stop function in the anchor section when the threaded shaft/anchor section extends beyond the wall member. In addition, the attachment ring, when in position, enables the threaded shaft to be aligned with the threaded portion formed in the anchor section. The claim recitations set forth positive structure and not, as the examiner states, merely a recitation of intended use.

It is believed that Place (and the cited Pontone and Karitzby references, either singly or in combination) does not show or disclose these improvements as set forth in remaining claims 4-7 and 8-10.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 7 have been amended as follows:

4. (amended) An improved board anchor for securing a board to a wall member, said wall member having an opening formed therethrough comprising:

a threaded shaft having a longitudinal axis;

a freely rotating anchor section attached to the screw shaft, said anchor section comprising a channel shaped member having spaced apart, downwardly extending flange portions, each flange portion having a shaped opening formed therein;

a rotatable threaded attachment ring having first and second protrusions formed on the perimeter of said attachment ring, said protrusions adapted to engage the corresponding opening formed on said anchor section, said threaded shaft being threadly coupled to said attachment ring prior to the insertion of said anchor portion within said wall member opening, said attachment ring protrusions and said shaped openings enabling said threaded shaft to be initially positioned substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis within said wall member opening and repositioning the anchor section to a first position substantially perpendicular to said screw shaft longitudinal axis after exiting said wall opening, said shaped openings and said attachment ring protrusions
have a complementary shape as to limit movement of between and said substantially parallel position and
acting together to lock said anchor section in said first position

7. (amended) The board anchor of claim 6 wherein said shaped openings and said attachment ring protrusions function to position said anchor section substantially perpendicular to said screw shaft longitudinal axis such that the threaded holes threaded holes in said attachment ring and said elongated portion of said anchor section are aligned

as said threaded shaft is rotated such that a portion of said threaded shaft extends through said aligned holes ~~when said screw shaft is in said first position.~~

Please add claims 8-10 as follows:

8. The board anchor of claim 7 wherein said shaped openings limit the angular rotation of said attachment ring relative to said anchor section to substantially 90°.
9. The board anchor of claim 7 further including a bushing mounted to the outer circumference of said threaded shaft.
10. The board anchor of claim 9 wherein said bushing is positioned within said wall member opening when said board is secured to said wall member.